CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing a self-contained thermophoretic source to protect a reticle from particle contamination, said thermophoretic source provided external to a carrier for the reticle.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 including providing the thermoelectric source under the reticle ~~on a~~ carrier.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 including providing a reticle on ~~a~~ the carrier which is inside an antistatic bag.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein providing a self-contained thermophoretic source includes providing dry ice.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein providing a self-contained thermophoretic source includes providing the source ~~inside the packaging for~~ and the reticle within a container.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein providing a self-contained ~~thermophoresis~~ thermophoretic source includes providing a Peltier source.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 including providing a source for a reticle that has a printable particle size less than 30 microns.

Claims 8-20 (Canceled)

21. (New) The method of claim 5 including providing the thermophoretic source and the reticle within the same container.

22. (New) The method of claim 5 including providing the reticle within an electrostatic bag and providing the thermophoretic source external to the electrostatic bag.

23. (New) A method comprising:

creating a temperature gradient within a shipping box to protect a reticle from particle contamination during shipment.

24. (New) The method of claim 23 including providing the reticle on a carrier within an antistatic bag.

25. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein creating a temperature gradient includes creating a temperature gradient for a plurality of reticles within the shipping box.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein creating a temperature gradient includes creating a temperature gradient for a plurality of reticles within a reticle carrier.

27. (New) The method of claim 23 including separating the source of the temperature gradient from the reticle.

28. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein creating a temperature gradient includes creating a temperature gradient using a thermophoretic source that does not require a power supply.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein using a thermophoretic source that does not require a power supply includes using dry ice.

30. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein creating a temperature gradient includes creating a temperature gradient using a thermoelectric coupling device.

31. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein creating a temperature gradient includes creating a temperature gradient using the Peltier effect.

32. (New) A method comprising:

placing a thermophoretic source that does not require an external power supply within a shipping container to prevent particles from contaminating a reticle during shipment.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein placing a thermophoretic source within the shipping container includes placing dry ice within the shipping container.